



# The HELMSMAN



VOL. 6, NO. 1

USS CANOPUS (AS-34)

6 FEBRUARY 1970



To all Sailors wherever ye may be: and to all, Mermaids, Whales, Sea Serpents, Porpoises, Sharks, Dolphins, Eels, Skates, Suckers, Crabs, Lobsters and all other living things of the sea Greetings: Know ye: That on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_, in Latitude \_\_\_\_\_ and Longitude \_\_\_\_\_ there appeared within \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ bound for the equator and for \_\_\_\_\_

Be It Remembered That the said vessel and Officers and Crew thereof, have been inspected and passen on by \_\_\_\_\_ of Our Royal Staff And Be It Known: By all ye Sailors, Mermaids, Whales, Sea Serpents, Porpoises, Sharks, Dolphins, Eels, Skates, Suckers, Crabs, Lobsters and all other living things of the sea who may be honored by his presence that \_\_\_\_\_ has been found worthy to be \_\_\_\_\_ into the \_\_\_\_\_

Sold \_\_\_\_\_  
134  
Be it \_\_\_\_\_  
my subje \_\_\_\_\_  
Disobey \_\_\_\_\_ at Royal Displeasure  
Given un \_\_\_\_\_ at this \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_

Davey Jones  
His Majesty's Scribe  
Neptunus Rex  
Ruler of the Raging Main  
By his Servant \_\_\_\_\_

COMMANDING



CAPTAIN JOHN M. DAVIS  
Commanding Officer  
COMMANDER JOHN H. BROWNLEY  
Executive Officer

LIEUTENANT (JUNIOR GRADE) RICHARD M. COLMAN  
Public Affairs Officer

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## EDITORIAL

# ROLE OF AS-34

By LTJG Richard M. Colman

The balance of power and peace among nations has evolved since World War II into a two country technological struggle between the United States and the Soviet Union. These two nations are capable and willing to spend vast sums of money to ensure them safety from foreign military aggression. With the development of the inter-continental ballistic missile, peace among nations during the last decade and into the 1970's is based upon fear of retaliation and destruction.

The maintenance of this balance of power leads to the question of the economic feasibility of increased technology and support of world-wide military installations.

The United States must decide what percentage of its economic resources should be spent on defense technology, and how at the same time to solve pressing domestic problems. It may be valid that America cannot afford to abandon its international alliances, but it is less probable that she can allow her internal urban, racial, and economic troubles to go unchallenged.

The role of the nuclear powered ballistic submarine (SSBN) is vital to the establishment of priorities in American internal and foreign policy. The SSBN provides an elusive, reliable and potent deterrent to aggression by foreign nations. As a result of mobility, the SSBN requires minimal financial support in comparison to land based installations. If the SSBN program can permit some American military bases in foreign nations to be closed or reduced in scope, then these savings should be directed towards solving internal problems.

The CANOPUS is directly involved in the efficient operation of the SSBN. The quality of work produced by each crew member of CANOPUS is therefore related to the success of the nuclear ballistic submarine program. Perhaps most important, no war deaths need ever occur for the SSBN to help preserve peace in the world.

# COMMAND COLUMN

CANOPUS is about to go to sea after eight months in conversion and overhaul. Ships are meant to go to sea and we will all have to get our sea legs. I say this in the broadest sense. Getting sea legs means more than not being seasick! It means conducting yourself as a seaman, complying with the laws of the sea and being alert to the inherent danger of a ship operating in its natural environment.

Every man aboard should refresh his mind with the safety precautions that will be followed. Safety precautions are "written in blood"! Accidents and injuries can, in most part, be avoided by alertness and common sense.

Just a few of the many safety precautions to keep in mind - Stay away from Radio antenna, don't lean on lifelines, watch your step on rolling and slippery decks, heavy doors and hatches have more tendency to be adrift in a rolling sea, sunburn can put you in sick bay, etc. Keep all of these precautions in mind so that our refresher training and transit period will be safe - as well as instructive.



## BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING!

SN Mark SOUZA is the only one on the ship with no cavities or restorations (you could say he has the freshest mouth on the ship!)

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK: Snipes are always below deck! . . .

SF1 Richard F. MOORE re-enlisted on 28 January at 0900 (it seems the Navy wants moore!) . . .

QUESTION: Why does fresh coffee on the mess decks always taste like it's brewed every four days?

FN Daniel WASHINGTON in I Division is going to marry a girl named - Martha! . . .

SFM2 Van Gaylen WALKER's first name is "nav" spelled backwards . . .

BEWARE!! BIG BROTHER WILL BE WATCHING FROM NOW ON IN EVERY ISSUE OF THE HELMSMAN.

# CANOPUS AWAITS NEPTUNE



You've heard of birthday parties and Christmas parties and Halloween parties . . . but have you ever heard of a Neptune Party?

Well, you will . . . soon!

It's one of the oldest and most interesting ceremonies of the sea. A Neptune Party is when the seasoned old salt calls on his green shipmates to prove that they can not only stand the terrors and strains and stresses of the beginning of a voyage across the equator, but also have enough courage and fellow in their make-up to take in good humor the joking and the ragging and the joshing accepted as part of daily life aboard ship.

## SAMPLE SUMMONS FOR A NEPTUNE PARTY

USS CANOPUS (AS-34) ON ENTERING

DOMAIN OF NEPTUNUS REX  
NOTICE AND LISTEN YE LANDLUBBER

I order and command you to appear before me and my Court on the morrow to be initiated in the mysteries of my Special Royal Domain. If you fail to appear you shall be given as food for sharks, whales, sea turtles, pollywogs, salt water frogs, and all living things of the sea, who will devour you, head, body, and soul as a warning to landlubbers entering my domain without warrant.

You are charged with the following offenses (offenses can be anything from excessive liberty to repeated sea sickness).

THEREFORE, appear and obey or suffer the penalty.

DAVY JONES  
Secretary of HIS Majesty

## SAMPLE RITUAL FOR A NEPTUNE PARTY

### Davy Jones Comes Aboard

Night before crossing the line when summonses are delivered. Note: Shortly after dark on night before "crossing the line" Davy Jones accompanied by the Royal Navigator, possibly the Judge and the Undertaker of Royal Court of Neptune come up over the bow in boatswains chairs or come up a forward

hatch amid a spray of fire hoses with the scene lit by searchlights.)

### Dialogue

(Davy Jones comes aboard and hails the bridge.)

DAVY JONES to Officer of the Deck: Ship Ahoy!

OOD: Aye, aye, sir.

DAVY JONES: What ship?

OOD: USS CANOPUS (AS-34).

DAVY JONES: I have been awaiting your arrival. You will notify the Commanding Officer that I, Davy Jones, have a message to deliver from His Royal Majesty Neptunus Rex.

OOD: Aye, aye, sir.  
(Half-minute or so elapses.)

OOD: Your Honor, the Commanding Officer awaits and will receive you now.

DAVY JONES: Very well, sir.  
(Proceeding to place designated - usually forecabin. If the meeting takes place on the quarter-deck, word is passed for all hands to follow Davy Jones as he proceeds aft with a master-at-arms leading.)

CAPTAIN to DAVY JONES: Greetings, Davy Jones. Welcome aboard.

DAVY JONES: I have orders for you and some summonses for your pollywogs from Neptunus Rex.

CAPTAIN: I will be glad to receive them.

DAVY JONES then reads the general order from King Neptune: I, Davy Jones, came out of the sea tonight to bring from His Oceanic Majesty, King Neptune, Ruler of the Seven Seas, all the summonses for the landlubbers, the pollywogs, the sea vermin, the crabs and eels who have not been initiated into the Supreme

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# WHY?

## THE PERFECT WEATHER

since they started keeping records, Acapulco has never failed to reach 76°; from November until June there is no rain. At other times, when it rains, it's at night.

## THE SCENERY

towering cliffs with the Pacific Ocean breaking at the bottom . . . miles of sandy beaches around Acapulco Bay . . . lush tropical flowers and the storied Pacific sunsets create an unforgettable panorama of spectacular beauty.

## THE ACTIVITIES

the sheltered bay and warm water are perfect for water skiing, skin diving, sailing and swimming. Outside the harbor, the Pacific Ocean lures the sports fisherman. Sailfish and marlin are in such abundance that most charter boat captains will wager, "no fish - no cost, or one fish - double the rate". Experienced Acapulco fishermen never take the captains up on this bet.

## THE NIGHT LIFE

begins at 2:00 in the afternoon under the thatched roofs of the beach clubs. There is a pause at 7:00 when the jet set heads for their hotels and changes to formal attire (slacks, skirts, blouses - anything except a wet swimsuit). The discotheques start when the people show up and they go-go-go until everybody goes home.

## THE FOOD

haute cuisine appears about 6:00 on the private terraces and in the many fine restaurants as the quiet crew settles down for dinner, served against a background of some of the world's most beautiful ocean sunsets seen through the mountains and across the Bay.

## THE INFORMALITY

permanent residents of Acapulco say a man in Acapulco needs a coat only to get married in. A necktie is for a waiter.

## THE SHOPPING

all of Mexico's arts and crafts are displayed here. Painted bark, silver and brass items, hats, papier-mache, straw items, arts, the Acapulco Bikini with a lace cover-up jacket. You can have a custom-made wardrobe in twenty-four hours at no extra charge.

# WHERE IT'S A



## NIGHT CLUBS

### LA PERLA

perhaps this is the most famous, longest-running, briefest night club act in the world - "La Perla Divers," performing here, 10:30, 11:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. It offers spectacular scenery as a background for the native boys' dive into the Pacific from the 136-foot-high cliffs.

### JACARANDA

another thrill show spot serving good food, and some Aztec "ceremonials." A "chief" dances on a swaying pole, one hundred feet high, a maiden is "sacrificed", Indians swing wildly about the pole, finally landing as the

# T - ACAPULCO



## AND A GO GOs

chief slides down and many viewers sigh with relief. All at El Presidente Hotel.

### TEQUILA A GO GO

a discotheque starting at 11:00 p.m. non-stop until 5:00 a.m. . . . everything you'd expect in the newest and freest resort city in the world . . . admission ten pesos (80¢ U.S. currency) . . .

### WHISKEY A GO GO

another ten pesos and you will see why that couple down the beach sleeps in the sun all day. From Santiago to Saskatchewan, this is one of the gayest, wiggle-bump-grind palaces on the Pacific coast.

### AKU TIKI GO GO

live sharks in a glass tank, waterfalls, swimming pools, service on the beach, a Cantonese chef . . . continuous music, dancing. A Polynesian restaurant that serves exotic drinks and fine seafood. They speak English . . . otherwise you'd think you were in Pago Pago. Next to the Presidente Hotel - opens at 7:00 p.m. and closes at 4:00 a.m.

## ATTRACTIONS

### BULL FIGHTS

all of the splendor of Spain in the new Caletilla bull ring. Ask for the "sombra" side to give your Acapulco tan a rest from the sun.

### CALANDRIAS

drawn by one horse, these brightly colored carriages decorated with flowers provide a comfortable, pleasant ride . . . a good way to "get your bearings; if it is your first trip to Acapulco . . . a romantic and pleasant way to the ship after a night on the town. Hire one at the Zocalo.

### SKIN DIVING SCHOOLS

in the early 1500's Acapulco was the largest Pacific port between China and Europe. Pirates often waited in Puerto Marquest Bay. Some sunken pirate wrecks can be seen as a part of a skin diving school's curriculum. Schools provide aqua lunds and all equipment. Coral reefs, an underwater shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe, and strange tropical fish make for interesting classrooms.

### JAI ALAI (winter only)

ten pesos (80¢ U.S.) admits you to the Fron-ton Acapulco . . . Latin America's speediest game . . . wild enthusiasm from the spectators . . . five Quinielas nightly for the betting crowd - starts at 9:00 p.m.

### GLASS BOTTOM BOAT

several excursions daily with English explanations. Divers bring up interesting specimens of the amazing undersea life.

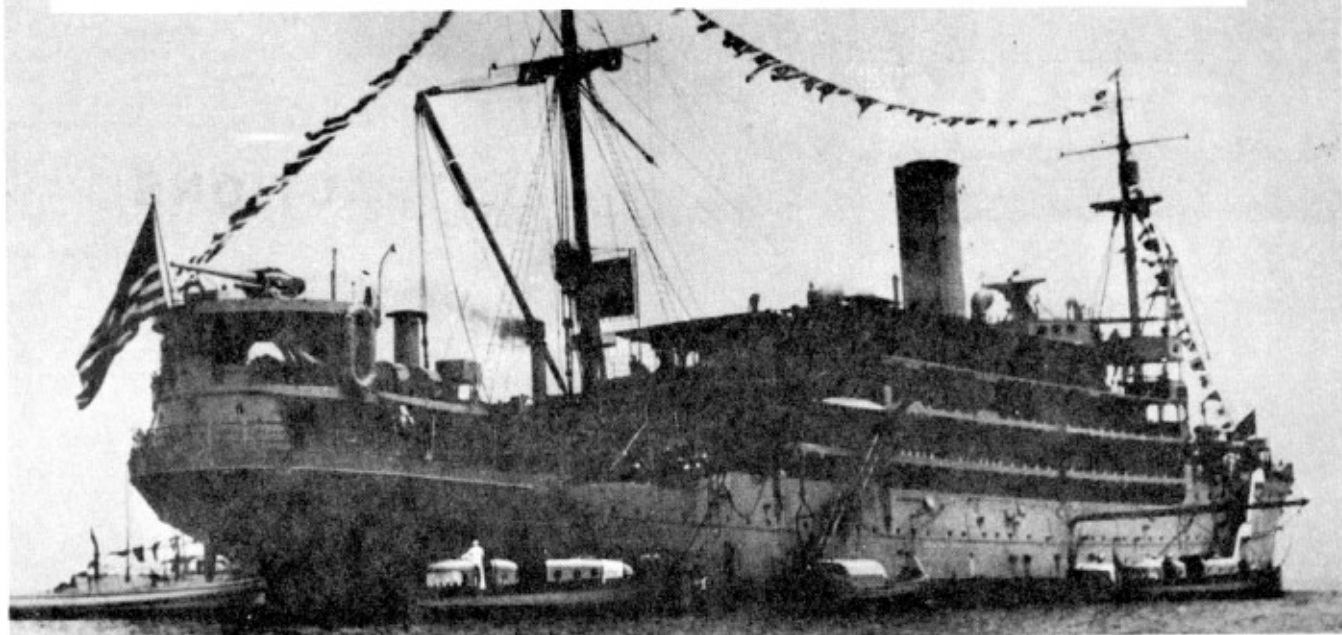
### SAILING

"El Ciclón" . . . a 47-foot cutter. Six-hour cruise under sail, stopping for lunch and drinks at beautiful Pichilingue Beach in Puerto Marques. Exquisite buffet . . . drinks included in fare.

### SCENIC YACHT CRUISES

a good way to get acquainted with Acapulco . . . several large yachts like The Fiesta, The Sea Cloud or the President Kennedy, sail daily from the Scenic Cruise docks. The yachts offer small bands for dancing and an open bar . . . cocktails are included in the fare.

# THE OLD CANOPUS WAS A HERO



AS-34 is the second submarine tender to bear the name of CANOPUS. The first CANOPUS is on the bottom of Mariveles Bay in the Philippines. Her own crew scuttled her.

Why they scuttled her and what they did before and after is one of the zaniest, most incredible, and wildly heroic stories of World War II.

AS-34 is a right middling fancy ship as submarine tenders go. But the old AS-9 didn't go in much for the spit-and-polish, Hand Salute, Two, routine.

The submarine tender sailors of the old CANOPUS were ones with grease on their faces and iron filings in their hair, and they could fix anything, because that's what submarine tender sailors are for: too fix things. They also played housemother and supply officer and otherwise gave aid and comfort to the glamour boys on the submarines.

Nevertheless, compared with the first CANOPUS the new CANOPUS is a floating palace.

The old CANOPUS was, with all due respect, a bucket of bolts. She was about as graceful as a duck - they swore she waddled like one - but she had a certain middle-aged good nature that fitted her perfectly for her role as mama-san to the submarines of the old Asiatic Fleet.

What the old CANOPUS had going for her was a crew whose likes the Navy may never see again. They knew the bars of Tsingtao as you know the back of your hand, and they knew the exotic entertainments of Shanghai and the comely maidens of Saigon. They knew how to fix things, too.

They had plenty to fix in the weeks after Pearl Harbor. On the second day of the war, the CANOPUS was ordered to go alongside the docks at Manila because the water was shallow there. Thus, when the expected sinking occurred, most of the ship would still rest above water and valuable stores, torpedoes and equipment could be salvaged.

Her crew painted her superstructure to

match the color of the docks alongside, spread camouflage nets overhead, and went to work day and night repairing the bomb-damaged ships that struggled out of Cavite Navy Yard while simultaneously taking care of her "brood" of 18 submarines.

By Christmas it was apparent that the CANOPUS could not stay where she was. The army was falling back on Manila, and General MacArthur decided to abandon the city to prevent its destruction. The troops fighting to block the Japanese from the city were moved across the bay to the Bataan Peninsula.

On Christmas Day, 1941, the CANOPUS steamed out of Manila Bay past Corregidor and tied up to the shoreline in a protected cove of Mariveles Bay, at the southern tip of the Bataan Peninsula.

Four days later, Japanese planes go around to doing something about the old ship. A plane dropped a 500-pound bomb smack through the supply office, thence through all the ship's decks to the top of the propeller shaft, where it exploded, killing two men in the engine room and all seven men in the after repair party.

Smoke poured from the ammunition scuttles leading to the magazines below. A gunner's mate climbed down a smoke-filled ammunition trunk with a hose while a party of men directed hose streams down the hatches. It was touch and go. The magazines might have blown all hands to smithereens any second.

Meanwhile, the Chaplain led a rescue group to the engine room, where he administered last rites to the dying men while the others in his party evacuated the injured.

The crew fought the fires for hours before all the fires were out. That same night the "Business as Usual" sign went up. While part of the crew bound up the ship's wounds, others were busy servicing submarines.

After the bombing, sailors didn't need a chit for anything. If he needed something he

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# OLD CANOPUS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

just went and got it. If it wasn't available he did without unless he could improvise a substitute. They improvised a lot.

At the time, the old CANOPUS had about \$3 million in cash aboard, and every time the Japanese came over they would throw the money into five seabags and head for the bush.

A week after the first bombing the Japanese tried again, this time with a 500-pound fragmentation (anti-personnel) bomb that hit the smokestack and sprayed the upper deck with shrapnel, wounding 15 men.

Several near misses also had taken their toll. The hull was dished in below the waterline, rivets loosened, and plates cracked. The CANOPUS was leaking badly.

Captain E. L. Sackett, now a retired rear admiral living on the West Coast, made a decision. The CANOPUS would trick the Japanese into thinking she was useless.

"The next morning when 'Photo Joe' came over in his scouting plane," Captain Sackett wrote, "his pictures showed what looked like an abandoned hulk, listed over on her sides, with cargo booms askew and blackened areas around the bomb holes from which smoke floated up for two or three days."

What "Photo Joe" did not know was that the smoke came from the oily rags in strategically placed smudge pots and that every night the supposedly abandoned hulk hummed with activity, servicing her submarines as usual. The crew worked by night and slept in the bush, out of sight, by day.

By this time the CANOPUS had the only machine shops left except the ones in the tunnels on Corregidor, and the Army, fighting on the Bataan front 20 miles north, brought its mechanical problems to the ship, too.

They made a lot of tripod mounts for machine guns out of pipe. They also stripped machine guns from wrecked planes and fixed them and made new mounts for them.

It was this penchant for "fixing things" that was to lead the crew of the CANOPUS to some of the weirdest adventures of World War II. The next issue of the "Helmsman" will tell what they were.

## CANOPUS AWAITS

## NEPTUNE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Order of the Deep. We of the great Neptune's Court bring serious indictments against those who still have traces of heifer dust and cow dung on their feet, as well as those of the big towns who think they are real city slickers. But no matter, all will be shellbacks after the rough treatment on the morrow, at which time, those summoned will appear before the Royal Judge of His August and Imperial Majesty, Neptunus Rex, and there answer for offenses committed both aboard and ashore.

Captain, a few officers and men have already requested leniency, but be it known King Neptune has no favorites. All landlubbers since men first followed the sea have endured the strict initiation required by the

King of the Sea. No! There will be no leniency - all pollywogs will receive appropriate punishment on the morrow.

And remember, sorrow and woe to those who resist or talk in a light or jesting manner of the ceremony, or of His Majesty, the Ruler of the Seven Seas. So - Beware! Beware!

Good-by Captain, I will see you with the great Neptune on the morrow.

(Leaves shouting, "Gangway for Davy Jones" as he disappears down a hatch forward or over the bow amid a fire hose spray, and with appropriate lighting effects.)

Initiation in the Ancient Order of the Deep Crossing the Line

When all is in readiness for the reception of King Neptune and party, the ship's navigator reports the ship is on the "line." Davy Jones then appears forward and reports to the Officer of the Deck that the Captain is to be informed that Neptunus Rex and the Royal Court have been sighted ahead. The personal flag of King Neptune, "the Jolly Roger" (skull and cross-bones) is broken when King Neptune and Court appear on deck. Attention is sounded; officers and crew fall in at quarters or where designated.

NEPTUNE: (on meeting Davy Jones): Well, well, what a fine ship and what a cargo of landlubbers.

(Note: About this time the Officer of the Deck should salute Neptune and with seriousness report that the Captain awaits the Royal Party. Then all move to place of ceremony, giving as many people as possible the opportunity to see King Neptune and the Royal Court before the ceremonies of initiation, such as passing down one side of the ship as a personnel inspection.)

CAPTAIN: (coming on deck): A sailor's welcome to you, King Neptune - it is a great pleasure to have you with us.

NEPTUNE: The pleasure is mine. Allow me to present Royal Navigator Shellback who will relieve you. I am so glad to be with you Captain, and have prepared for a busy day in order to make all your landlubbers fit subjects of my great Raging Main.

CAPTAIN: Your Majesty, may I invite your attention the fact that I have several young officers and crew members aboard who have not been in the Navy long enough to have had the opportunity to visit your domain and become shellbacks. I beg you to be as lenient with them as possible.

NEPTUNE: Captain, I am very sorry, I must be severe, there will be no exceptions.

CAPTAIN: Neptune, I turn over my command to you for such time as you wish.

NEPTUNE: Very well Captain, I thank you. (Turns to Royal Navigator.) Royal Navigator proceed to the bridge, and direct the ship.

The Royal Court is then escorted to the "throne." Solemnly, Neptune and Court ascend and take assigned places to witness ceremonies. On order of Neptune, initiation commences with officers first. Captain and senior officers sit back of Neptune or on another platform.

# CANOPUS PSNS CHAMPS

The CANOPUS basketball team won 14 out of 14 league games . . . and walked away with the Intramural Basketball League championship at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

They also walked away with a large trophy for the team and a trophy for each player.

Their closest game was against the USS DETROIT which ended 44-43 . . . but the rest of the season was a push-over: 71-56 against the MARINE BARRACKS BANGOR; 97-39 against INACTIVE SHIPS MAINT. FACILITY; 83-30 against the MARINE BARRACKS PSNS; 78-47 against the U.S. NAVAL HOSPITAL . . . and so on down the line throughout the season.

## Which Are You?

### Lifer Or Career Man

There have been many controversial letters written on the subject of career men and lifers. In the eyes of the lower rated men and especially personnel new to the Navy, these differences are very hard to distinguish. In fact, some of the senior petty officers are probably asking themselves, "Which am I"?

Well, sailors, ask yourselves these questions and if you answer them truthfully you will surely know which category you belong in:

- AM I PROUD OF THE WORK I DO?
- AM I GIVING MY BEST TO MY COUNTRY?
- AM I PERFORMING A JOB THAT REALLY HELPS THE CAUSE OF THE NAVY?
- AM I PROUD OF THE WAY I APPEAR TO PEOPLE AROUND ME?

If you honestly answered yes to those four questions then you can be proud to call yourself a career man. If you truthfully couldn't answer yes to those questions, then you probably fall into the category called "LIFERS".

Now that probably seems like a nasty thing to call yourself, so if you are still not convinced then ask yourself these questions:

- COULD I MAKE IT ON THE OUTSIDE?
- DO THE LOWER RATED MEN LIKE ME?
- DO I CONTRIBUTE TO THE MORALE OF MY MEN?
- DO I HAVE PRIDE IN MY PERSONAL APPEARANCE?

To help answer the last question, look down in front of you and ask yourself when was the last time you could see your shoes without bending over.

If you answered no to this last question you can consider yourself a "PAT LIFER".

I hope this has helped you to determine whether you are a "LIFER OR A CAREER MAN".

Ensign Robert L. BRANNON, RS Division Officer, lead the CANOPUS team to victory this year as coach.

ENS BRANNON has never participated on a losing team. He played intramural basketball in high school . . . and they won three years in a row.

SN James PRATHER was leading scorer for the team. He averaged over 20 points a game.

Other members of the championship CANOPUS team are: SN Vernstein BUCKNER, ETR3 Michael E. HINDMAN (the only veteran of last year's basketball team), SN James TAYLOR, SN Steve WYNN, FN Harvey BELL, FN Curtis CRAYTON, SKSN Thomas R. HART, SN Reginald GRIFFIN, and SN William COLEMAN.

LTJG Martin J. SCHILDWACHTER was assistant coach . . . LI3 Richard J. LOCKERIDGE was the team's manager.

*from the chaplain's desk*

LCDR. James W. Eckles, CHC, USN  
Chaplain

These days everything is being reexamined. The following is the sort of restatement of the Ten Commandments as many people seem to interpret them:

I. Thou shalt have no God, for this is an admission of weakness.

II. What thou seest, that shall thou call God; thou shalt not worship that which thou canst not see.

III. Thou shalt use the name of the Lord in ways not worshipful, for thus shalt thou effectively proclaim thine anger and express thyself most vividly.

IV. Thou shalt remember the sabbath day as thine own day for pet projects and work, for thou art busier than God and hast no time to cease from labor.

V. Thou shalt not honor thy father and thy mother, for this is old-fashioned, a threat to thy self-expression, and warping to thy personality.

VI. Thou shalt not kill the body, but thou shalt assassinate character by means of malicious gossip, and thou shalt think lightly of starving the soul of thy neighbor by withholding thy love from him.

VII. Thou shalt regard marriage flip-pantly, for it is a bond easily broken.

VIII. Thou shalt not get caught stealing.

IX. Thou shalt stretch the truth concerning thy neighbor if it serve thy purpose, or if thou has little liking for him.

X. Thou shalt covet freely, for by thy desires shalt thou live.

Seems to me like the original set of Commandments is a better way to follow.